

REMARKS

Claims 8, 11-14, 16, 17, 24, and 25 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15, and 18-23 have been canceled. Claims 24 and 25 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Specifically, the Examiner acknowledges that the delay time is not disclosed by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant has re-written independent claim 15 in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim 8 and intervening claims 9 and 10.

In addition, in order to provide alternative claim coverage, Applicant has added the recitations of dependent claims 10 and 15 (and not intervening dependent claim 9) to independent claim 8, and has added new dependent claims 24 and 25, which include the recitations of original claims 16 and 17 but depend from claims 8 and 24, respectively (instead of claims 15 and 16). Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable at least in view of the allowability of dependent claim 15. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 11-14 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 8.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto (5,765,070). Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto (5,765,070) in view of Watanabe et al. (4,872,033).

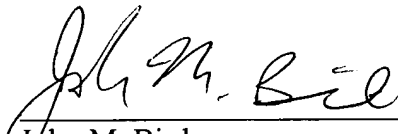
These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 18-23, and the amendments to independent claim 8 discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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